

On Top Of The News

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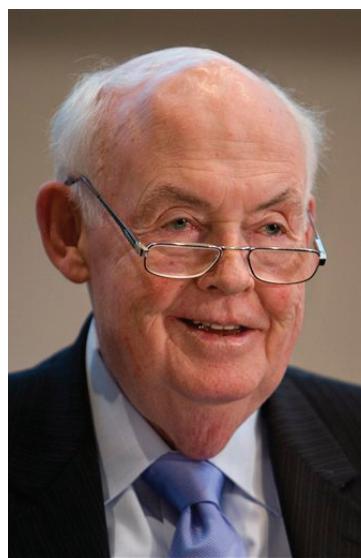
Monday, September 14, 2009



INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

LOVE OF LABOR



In this Nov. 5, 2008 file photo, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney talks about the impact of labor union members on the presidential election, at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington.

See International News on Page B3

SPORTS NEWS

GOING FOR SIX



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, hits a return through his legs to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during their semifinals match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

See Sports Today on Page B10

The 1st Rembrandt Golf Tournament was a super hit



NOORD - The first Rembrandt Golf Tournament was a super hit: more than 80 players had a lot of fun on the terrific Tierra del Sol Golf course last Saturday. The 12.30 start saw happy faces; when the players arrived at Café Rembrandt some five hours later, they were a few shades darker, but even happier. A cocktail

hour, a round of wii-golf and a fantastic buffet dinner concluded the afternoon. And then the prizes were given out.

With Café Rembrandt's Stefan Legger and Stephan van der Varst assisting Tierra del Sol's Adam and Oliver Riding, Ron Moser received a dinner for

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Aruba Banks hold it's Real Estate Happy Hour



ORANJESTAD - In a very casual setting, Aruba Bank platinum banking division hosted a happy hour dedicated to all real estate agencies on the island. Aruba Bank wanted to show their appreciation to all their guests and the cooperation that has always been between these two. In the same time Aruba Bank took the opportunity to meet and greet with the more newest real estate agencies on the island. Aruba Bank wishes to thank all the agencies and agents for there great wok and hope to continue the great relationship that has always been there between the two □

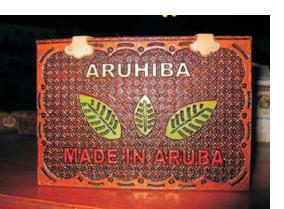


ARUHIBA THE 1 AND ONLY HOMEMADE ARUBAN CIGAR

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

Tierra del Sol hosts the first annual Café Rembrandt Golf Tournament

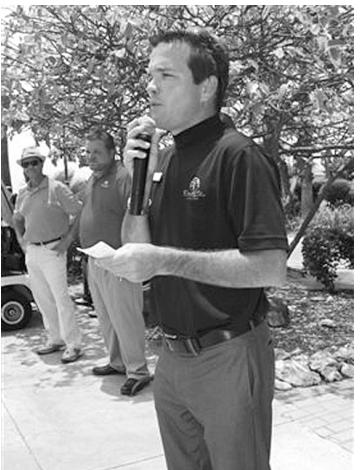


WEST PUNT — After a successful Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup Golf Tournament presented by BOOLCHAND'S, local golfers were ready for the next event, Café Rembrandt Golf Tournament, with a gun start at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. Organized as an Individual Stroke Play with A, B and C Flights, or a 4-player scramble, Head Golf Professional Oliver Riding promised to have all score cards tallied by the award party held at Rembrandt's Café, South Beach Centre, paired with a tasty buffet dinner at 6 p.m. and live music from 8 p.m. with Jazz vocalist Lucre Houtman.

Riding also announced that a WII golf championship will be organized at Rembrandt Café by golf pro Adam Williamson, to give those who did poorly on the live green a virtual chance at winning.

Pictured here the enthusiastic Café Rembrandt Golf Tournament players with Rembrandt co-owners Stefan Legger and Stephan van der Varst, Tierra del Sol Real Estate Executive Sven Ellerkamp and Head Golf Professional Oliver Riding. Café Rembrandt, is a European 'eetcafé' just across the street from Amazonia Churrascaria and Sopranos, with convenient parking behind the South Beach Centre.

Designed by renowned Robert Trent Jones II, Tierra del Sol, situated on the scenic northwest point of Aruba, is the only 18 hole championship golf course on the island. Tierra del Sol includes a full length practice range, putting greens, chipping areas, a magnificent clubhouse with golf shop, restaurant and swimming pool and a Master Planned real estate community consisting of villas, condominiums, estate lots and custom homes. □



Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
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3-course dinner
\$24 per person

* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



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The 1st Rembrandt Golf Tournament was a super hit



Continued from Front Page
 Josef Croes became the winner of the C-Flight (36), with JP van den Eerenbeemt on his heels (34) and Pablo Carmona in third place (33). B-flight champ was Jan Roeloffsvalk (73); he was followed by Mike de l'Isle (74) and Nigel Nedd (75). In the A-flight it was a close call between Harold Hagens (1) and Orlando Rasmijn (2), who each had

72 Nett; Cisco Quant came third with 74. The three flight winners received an unusual challenge cup consisting of a framed 'Rembrandt' painting, which will be hung in Café Rembrandt with a plaque with their names on it.

Stef and Stephan received lots of compliments for their first terrific tournament which was filled with 'ambiente' and fun □

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BTUSA Championship Produces Extreme Competition

Aruba #1 team reaches semi finals of BTUSA

-- The 2009 Beach Tennis USA National Championship demonstrated two days of exciting, fast-paced action. For the first time ever, the National Championship in the United States featured a "Paddle Battle" in addition to the regular racquet competition. On Saturday, September 5, teams from all over the world competed using paddles, rather than conventional tennis racquets. The European athletes in attendance, who have played with paddles for years, were the teams to beat in this tournament. In the Men's Pro division finals, it was two Italian teams that would square off: Gianluca Chirico and Massimo Mattei (Ravenna, IT) versus Maurizio DiCori and Emanuele Bianchedi (Ravenna, IT). Both teams are very familiar with the sport of beach tennis, having competed in over 100 tournaments in Italy, combined. Although DiCori and Bianchedi were newcomers to American sand, it was no detriment to their game, as they defeated Chirico and Matei 8-5. Over on the Ladies Pro Division, the finals match consisted of two Southern California teams, Lee Whitwell and Joslynn Burkett (San Diego, CA) versus Lucy Streeter and Kristen Flagler (Hermosa Beach, CA). Flagler and Streeter knocked out Nadia Johnston (Long Beach, NY) and Nicole Melch (Cresskill, NJ) in the semi-finals to advance, however they were

no match for the duo from San Diego as they easily captured the first Paddle Battle title by a score of 8-4. Sunday, September 6 featured the tennis racquet version of the 2009 Beach Tennis USA National Championship. In the Men's Pro Division, the two-time defending champions Matteo Marighella and Alex Mingozi (Ravenna, IT) advanced to the finals to face off against former national champions Chris Henderson and Phil Whitesell (Charleston, SC). Henderson and Whitesell, who won titles in 2005 and 2006, were eager to defeat the Italians and bring the trophy back to the U.S. In dramatic fashion, the pair of Americans stunned the crowd as they delivered powerful serves, which was enough to defeat the seemingly unbeatable Italians, 8-6.

□

the local Inter Assure Beach Tennis tournament at Eagle beach among 150 other Beach tennis players of all levels. Cause in Beach Tennis 'every body' can play!

For more details check: www.arubabeachtennis.com

Beach Tennis on Aruba is powered by Alno Kitchen, ATA, Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe, Bacardi Mojito, Inter Assure and Monster Energy & Zen Design. □



Monday September 14

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Buffalo Bills at New England Patriots @ 7 PM
Offensive issues

Do the Bills (7-9 straight up, 7-9 against the spread in 2008) have enough offense to trade scores with the explosive Patriots? This is the primary concern for Buffalo entering their regular season opener after the struggles of the offense in the preseason.

In 15 offensive series, the first team offense was limited to just a field goal during exhibition action. The club promptly fired offensive coordinator Turk Schonert at the end of the preseason.

Buffalo will stick with their new no-huddle offense on Monday, much to the chagrin of new wide out Terrell Owens. The controversial playmaker initially told Boston reporters he was not enjoying the hurry-up offense. He tried to downplay his comments afterwards.

"No, it's all right, it just gets you a little winded, and for myself I haven't really practiced much the last few preseason games so I'm still trying to get myself into shape and that's coming around."

The trade of All-Pro offensive tackle Jason Peters to the Eagles has left a void up front and the Bills also won't have their top best running back with Marshawn Lynch serving the first of a three-game league suspension.

The offense will also be seeking to secure the ball better in 2009 after leading the conference in lost fumbles a year ago with 15.

It's been such a long time

All eyeballs will be glued on Tom Brady's every move Monday night. The three-time Super Bowl winner hasn't played a down since the first half of the Pats' first game last season. New England's success in 2008 will largely depend on whether Brady can return to his 2007 MVP form, or close to it – especially with some many question marks on the defensive side of the ball.

Last week's controversial trade of defensive linemen Richard Seymour to the Raiders is just the latest

example of the turnover in the defense. Mike Vrabel, Teddy Bruschi, Rodney Harrison and Ellis Hobbs are also no longer with the Patriots. New England was tenth in the league in total defense in 2008.

"A lot of years of experience have walked out the door in the last couple years," Brady told the Boston Globe over the weekend. "It's kind of the evolution of it. The turnover we've had is significant. But coach (Bill) Belichick coaches us all the same way."

Line movement

The Patriots opened as a 9.5-point favorite in the contest with a total of 46.5. New England is now an 11-point choice in the matchup.

Trends Bill Belichick is 16-2 (13-5 ATS) against the Bills since becoming the head coach of the Patriots in 2000. New England has won the last 11 meetings in the series. The Patriots are 3-9 ATS in their last 12 home games (playoffs included). The under is 19-7 in the Bills/Patriots series since 1996.

San Diego Chargers at Oakland Raiders @ 10:15 PM

What to expect from LT?

While winning the AFC West for the fifth time in the last six years appears to be a forgone conclusion for the Chargers (8-8, 7-8-1 ATS in 2008) in 2009, their season will ultimately be defined in January.

On offense, the focus is on 30-year-old star runner LaDainian Tomlinson. After his rushing average dropped from 4.7 yards per carry in 2007 to 3.8 in 2008, there are questions about Tomlinson's ability to dominate again at a young man's position.

While LT could be on the decline, QB Phillip Rivers is just coming into his own after leading the NFL in quarterback rating in 2008.

Under pressure

SD's defense (25th in NFL in total defense in 2008) is hoping that the return of linebacker Shawne Merriman will enable the unit to rebound in 2009. Despite registering



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39.5 sacks in his first three years in the league, there are questions about his future in San Diego after last year's injury and his off-field antics.

More of the same?

The dysfunctional Raiders (5-11, 7-9 ATS in 2008) may have given their fans a preview of things to come in the most significant game of the preseason. In the traditional warm up game for the regular season, the Raiders entertained the Saints in Week 3 of the exhibition slate. Oakland's starters were promptly outscored (31-0) and outgained (344-60) in a brutal half of football.

The NFL's worst passing offense in 2008 isn't likely to be much better in 2009. QB JaMarcus Russell doesn't appear to be ready to live up to the expectations of being a first overall draft pick three years ago.

Rookie Darrius Heyward-Bey will improve a marginal group of receivers, but the offense will rely on the ground game in 2009. Second-year tailback Darren McFadden has supplanted Justin Fargas as the starter to begin the year.

"I just think everything he is in terms of being multiple, running the football and catching the football," Raiders head coach Tom Cable told the San Francisco Chronicle. After working out some personal issues, Seymour is expected to be on board in Oakland for the opener. The veteran duo of Seymour and Greg Ellis will be counted on to strengthen a defensive line that struggled to stop the run in 2008 (last in AFC in rushing defense).

The secondary, led by star cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, should also benefit from an improved pass rush up front.

Line movement

San Diego opened as a touchdown favorite with a total of 44. The Chargers are now favored by 9.5 points while the over/under is down to 43.

Trends

The Chargers are 11-0 (10-1 ATS) in the last 11 meetings in the series. Oakland's 24-72 record since 2003 is the worst in the NFL. □

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. □



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PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



SALSA WORKSHOP

Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

dancing. You will learn how to dance Salsa and Merengue in one hour. The FREE workshop starts at 7:30pm. The popular Salsa live band "PM" will take care of the swinging Latin tunes. Fun guaranteed!

LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE
Wednesday 7-11pm: PM Band
Friday 6-10pm: PM Band
Friday 10pm - 12am: DJ Jeroen
Sunday 6-9pm: MARISELA & Aquarius

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club

LCBRC hosts an entertaining afternoon at Divi Links



EAGLE BEACH — The quarterly meeting of La Cabana beach & Racquet Club managers was a lot of fun as it featured a nine minute award ceremony, ninety minutes of golf, and 100% fun happy hour.

General Manager Joe Najjar promised his managers to minimize speeches and maximize fun, as he presented

four overachievers from among his managers, namely Sonny Partodikromo, Greta de Cuba, Ichel Lynch & Efigenio Damia. Najjar went on to praise



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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting.

The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors.

The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle



Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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just merged a number of department successfully and that her leadership brings joy and playfulness to the guest experience at the resort. Having concluded the award ceremony in a record time, the team went on a spin on the golf course and enjoyed the sunset over the Divine Nine. At the learning Center they split into two groups, once conducting a putting contest the other enjoying a golf clinic, until it was time for an extended Happy Hour at Mulligan's Golf Café, Bar & Restaurant □

New Library System V-smart for Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



ORANJESTAD - The national library of Aruba is in the process of switching to V-

smart, a web-based integrated library system. V-smart is a solution to manage and

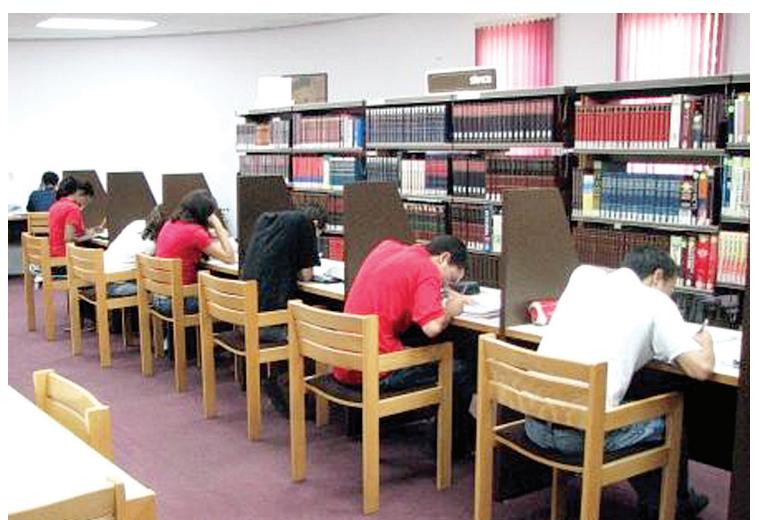
showcase collections of any kind and enables the library to manage both traditional and digital items, including books, journals, audio materials, photographs, e-journals, e-books, web resources and more.

BNA also chose the statistical analysis portal, V-insight, to provide the Library's staff with key performance indicators about trends and usage of the Library's collections. It is the goal to further improve the delivery of information resources and services to the island's diverse population. Astrid J.T. Britten, director of Biblioteca Nacional Aruba explains "As a national library, BNA offers Aruba residents many services and a collection of books, magazines, audiovisual material and more. By choosing V-smart and V-insight, the Library acquires a better tool to manage the collections and to strengthen the role as the island's primary center of Information, knowledge and culture."

The project to switch to a new system was planned in different phases leading to the final implementation. Long training sessions were planned to prepare and introduce staff members to the new tools as well as testing the new library system.



Vsmart will go 'live' at the end of September. The library is not closed but the "old" library system will shut down a few days prior to the "go-live" of the "new" library system. This means that check-in, check-out and reservation of books will not be possible from September 15th till September 25th. Doors remain open during daytime (no evening hours) from 07:30 - 12:00 and 13:30 - 17:00. All other services, the use of computer/internet, the courses and other activities will remain available. Visitors and students can use the reference room, internet room, and copy center. □



Venezuela Says It Will Buy Russian Missiles

To Put within firing range locations on the island of Aruba

By SIMON ROMERO

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chávez said Friday night that Venezuela had reached an agreement to buy short-range missiles from Russia, part of a deepening security relationship with Russia as Mr. Chávez chafes at a plan by the United States to increase its military presence in neighboring Colombia.

The missiles, if the deal goes through, would put within firing range locations in Colombia or American military installations on the islands of Aruba or Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles off Venezuela's coast, where the United States operates surveillance flights. But Mr. Chávez insisted that the weapons were solely for defensive purposes.

"We are not going to attack anybody," Mr. Chávez said in a speech from the balcony of the presidential palace after his return from a whirlwind trip to

Russia, Iran, Libya, Algeria, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Spain and Italy. "These are just defense tools, because we are going to defend our country from any threat, wherever it may come from."

Mr. Chávez did not specify the type of Russian-made missiles that Venezuela hoped to buy, but he said that they had a range of about 186 miles. He also did not say how many of the missiles Venezuela would receive, where they would be deployed or how much they would cost.

If he goes ahead with the deal, Mr. Chávez would have to find a way to pay for the missiles while he struggles to meet other obligations. With oil prices dropping sharply from their peak last year, Venezuela owes an estimated \$10 billion to \$15 billion to a wide variety of foreign companies, including suppliers of basic items like food.

So far this decade, Venezuela

has announced plans to buy more than \$4 billion in weapons from Russia. Some of these deals have materialized, like the purchase of Sukhoi fighter jets and SA-24 shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles. Other deals, like a plan to build a Kalashnikov rifle factory in Venezuela, have faced lengthy delays. Mr. Chávez has played up Venezuela's ties with Russia and the country's expanding weapons arsenal as he has lashed out at a plan by Washington that could raise American troop levels in Colombia, a nation where the United States has already disbursed more than \$5 billion in security aid to combat guerrilla insurgencies and the cocaine trade. □



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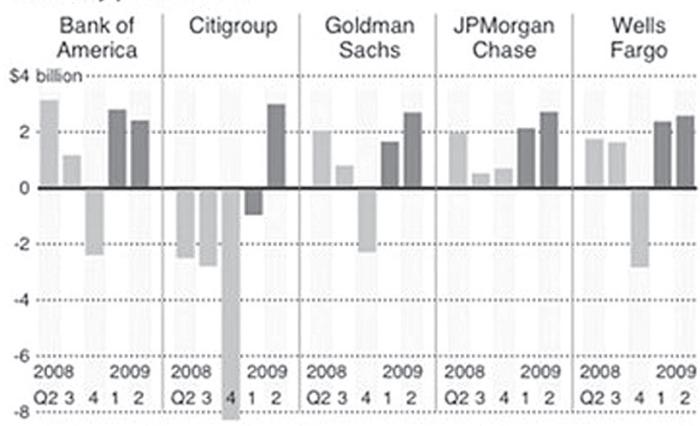
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BUSINESS**Aruba TODAY****Risk-taking is back for banks 1 year after crisis****Large banks bounce back to profit**

Five bailed-out banks posted profits totaling \$13 billion in the second quarter of this year. A large portion of the earnings came from several banks' own trading units.

Quarterly profit or loss

SOURCES: The companies

AP

Graphic shows the quarterly profits or losses for Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo

By STEVENSON JACOBS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — A year after the financial system nearly collapsed, the nation's biggest banks are bigger and regaining their appetite for risk.

Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and others — which have received tens of billions of dollars in federal aid — are once more betting big on bonds, commodities and exotic financial products, trading that nearly stopped during the financial crisis.

That Wall Street is making money again in essentially the same ways that thrust the banking system into chaos last fall is reason for concern on several levels, financial analysts and government officials say.

- There have been no significant changes to the federal rules governing their behavior. Proposals that have been made to better monitor the financial system and to police the products banks sell to consumers have been held up by lobbyists, lawmakers and turf-protecting regulators.
- Through mergers and the failure of Lehman Brothers, the mammoth banks whose near-collapse prompted government rescues have gotten even bigger, increasing

the risk they pose to the financial system. And they still make bets that, in the aggregate, are worth far more than the capital they have on hand to cover against potential losses.

- The government's response to last year's meltdown was to spend whatever it takes to protect the financial system from collapse — a precedent that could encourage even greater risk-taking from the private sector.

Lawrence Summers, director of the White House National Economic Council, says an overhaul of financial regulations is needed as soon as possible to keep the financial system safe over the long haul.

"You cannot rely on the scars of past crises to ensure against practices that will lead to future crises," Summers says. No one is predicting another meltdown from risky trading in the near term. Rather, the concern is what happens over time as banks' confidence grows and the memory of the financial crisis of 2008 fades. Will they pile on bets to the point that a new asset bubble forms and — as happened with mortgage-backed securities — its undoing endangers banks and the broader economy? □

"We're seeing the same kind of behavior from the banks, and that could lead to some huge and scary parallels," says Simon Johnson, former chief economist with the International Monetary Fund. Some risk-taking is good. When banks are willing to invest in companies or lend to home-buyers, that nurtures economic growth by generating employment and consumer spending, feeding a cycle of expansion.

The problem is when banks' quest for profits leads them to take on too much risk. In the case of the housing bubble, which burst last year, banks lent too freely to consumers with weak credit and wagered too much on complex financial instruments tied to mortgages. As real-estate prices turned south, so did the financial industry's health.

Because the largest banks' trading divisions make their bets with each other, their fortunes are intertwined. The collapse of one can threaten another — and another — if it is unable to pay off its debts. This so-called counterparty risk is a major reason the Obama administration's regulatory overhaul plan calls for the creation of a "systemic risk regulator." The administration is also seeking tougher capital requirements for banks, arguing that banks' buying of exotic financial products without keeping enough cash on reserve was a key cause of the crisis. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has urged the Group of 20 nations — which meets this month in Pittsburgh — to agree on new capital levels by the end of 2010 and put them in place two years later. Geithner hasn't said how much extra capital banks should be required to keep on hand. Data from the April-June quarter show that the banks are leaning heavily again on their trading desks for revenue. □

Consumer spending could boost the stock market

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS,
AP Business Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Wall Street wants consumers to do their part to heal the economy. Traders know it's going to take some time.

Investors will get some insight this week into how much consumers are spending from a government report on August retail sales. They'll also get an indicator of how willing consumers are to borrow money to make those purchases when credit card lender Discover Financial Services reports earnings.

"I think everybody is focusing so heavily on if people are releasing some of those dollars they have been clinging so tightly to over the past year," said Jamie Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group in Colonial Heights, Va.

Analysts say investors need to see evidence that consumer spending is picking up before the market can extend its recent gains. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters estimate retail sales increased 1.2 percent last month, after falling 0.1 percent in July. The report comes out Tuesday.

Many analysts have been expecting a pullback in the markets, which have risen more than 50 percent since bottoming out at a 12-year low in early March. The S&P 500 index, a widely used market gauge and the basis for many mutual funds, rose for five days before slipping Friday and ending the week up 2.6 percent. The Dow rose 164 points, or 1.7 percent, for the week.

"The market could take a breather before third-quarter earnings reports," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at New York-based brokerage house Avalon Partners Inc. Companies will start reporting results in early October for the three months ending in September.

The stock market ended the week with a few pieces of reassuring news on the economy. The Commerce Department reported Friday that even though wholesale inventories fell for a record 11th straight month in July, sales rose by the largest amount in more than a year. Also, the University of Michigan consumer confidence index showed improving views of both current conditions as well as expectations for the future.

"You have to remember that consumers will spend money if they feel like that their prospects for a job or for wealth feels OK," Cox said. "That 'wealth effect' is huge."

Despite signs that the recession is easing, the reluctance of consumers to spend money is a top concern to investors. With spending by consumers making up a huge portion of the U.S. economy, about 70 percent, economists see little chance of a robust economic rebound until that spending picks up again. Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate jumped almost a half point to 9.7 percent in August, the highest level since 1983. Experts expect the unemployment rate to surpass 10 percent before coming back down, and the concern is that rising unemployment will put more pressure on beleaguered consumers and further depress their spending.

Investors will also see if consumers are helping the electronics retailer Best Buy Co., which is slated to report earnings Tuesday. Discover Financial reports its results before the market opens on Thursday. Nearly all lenders are seeing more customers miss their monthly payments as the economy falters and unemployment surges, but analysts say Riverwoods, Ill.-based Discover has been doing better than its peers. □

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Car dealers fight slow sales after end of Clunkers

By TOM KRISHER,
AP Auto Writer

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP, Mich.—As Gene Butman Ford opened its doors Saturday, salesmen outnumbered the shoppers looking at a depleted stock of cars and trucks, and it didn't appear that many customers were ready to buy. Like many dealers across the country, the dealership in Ypsilanti Township, Mich., west of Detroit, is suffering from a Cash for Clunkers hangover, and Sales Manager Paul Grahm isn't sure when it will end.

"We're getting some traffic, but my business is a long way from healthy," said the longtime salesman. "We suspect it's going to be 90 days before we get back to any kind of normalcy."

The clunkers program lured hundreds of thousands of people to dealers in July and August with government rebates of up to \$4,500 to trade in older, inefficient vehicles for newer, more fuel-efficient ones. While most dealers are grateful for the boost, they're paying for it now with fewer customers. The government rebates drew people into the market who otherwise would have kept driving their clunkers due to uncertainty over the sputtering economy. Those customers might have made their purchases later in the year.

"It was good while it lasted," said Phil Warren, sales manager at Toyota Direct in Columbus, Ohio. "Now we're a little bit

concerned about what happens next. The program may have just taken a lot of people out of the market."

Making matters worse, many dealers depleted their stocks with clunker sales, and automakers have been slow to ramp up production to replenish the lots. Grahm says Ford has built the cars he ordered but mysteriously hasn't shipped them. So the selection isn't very good for people who do want to buy. "We've noticed that," said Amy Whiting, who with her husband, Frank, was shopping this weekend at a Pontiac-Buick-GMC dealer near Butman Ford. "You drive in the lot and it's gone."

The Whitings, who had trouble finding a Toyota Matrix compact, instead bought a used Pontiac Vibe, a General Motors version of the Matrix built at a soon-to-be-shuttered California factory that's a joint venture between GM and Toyota.

Dealers across the country reported sparse selections on their lots as inventories shrunk to near record low levels. At the end of August, GM reported 379,000 cars and trucks in its supply, about half of what it had in August of last year. Ford Motor Co. had 243,000 cars and trucks, down from 461,000 a year ago.

David Kelleher, who owns two Chrysler dealerships in the Philadelphia area, said he sold out of many products. Now, because of low inventory and September being a

traditionally slow month, the sales pace has returned to where it was before the clunkers program began.

"We were already in a really mediocre year," Kelleher said. "We're just kind of back into that mode again."

Kelleher usually has 350 to 400 vehicles at each of his lots, but said the clunkers program reduced that to around 50. He, too, has ordered replacements and is awaiting their arrival.

"We're back into that let's-wait-and-see mode," he said. "People aren't 100 percent sure about the economy yet."

Some economists are predicting that clunkers and other stimulus programs will pull the economy out of a recession this quarter. Consumer confidence rose from a reading of 65.7 in August to 70.2 in early September as measured by the University of Michigan-Reuters survey.

Yet employment is still on the decline. Companies shed 216,000 jobs in August and unemployment rose to 9.7 percent, its highest level since 1983.

So in many ways, the Whitings, in their mid-20s and both secure in their jobs, represent a large chunk of buyers who remain in the market: They had to buy because their 1997 Plymouth Breeze sedan had so many things go wrong that it wasn't worth repairing.

"For us it wasn't a matter of confidence. It was more practicality," Frank Whiting said. The clunkers program



Used vehicles sit in the sales lot of Arnold Motor Sales, a family-run used car dealership in Superior, Arizona September 9, 2009. Arnold Motor Sales was a former Jeep, Dodge and Chrysler dealership before Chrysler terminated the franchise agreement along with 788 dealers around the country back in June. Arnold's used car sales has been down since June.

REUTERS/Joshua Lott (UNITED STATES TRANSPORT BUSINESS)

brought a drop in rebates and other sales incentives in August from every major automaker but Hyundai Motor Co., Nissan Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. Chrysler had the steepest drop, from \$4,604 to \$3,405, according to the Edmunds.com automotive Web site. But slow September sales could drive them up again.

Scott Kesel, owner of a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership in Canandaigua, N.Y., near Rochester, thinks the September sales drop is seasonal as vacations end, students return to school and people focus on new routines. "That is always a difficult retail period for us. If you see numbers that suggest the market is down in September, it may be absolutely normal," he said, adding that he isn't

worried about the rest of the year.

"I think there's more demand out there yet, and the right dealers and the right products will bring those customers out."

Kesel, like many dealers, still hasn't been paid for most of his clunker sales.

"Most dealers are in a cash-flow crunch because of the federal government not paying up on this," he said.

The government reported Friday that it has approved \$1.22 billion in reimbursements, about 40 percent of what is due. The Transportation Department said it is on track to pay eligible dealers by Sept. 30. The rebates, which ended Aug. 24, led to more than 690,000 new car sales at a taxpayer cost of \$2.88 billion.

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Ancient Indian Text Decoded - Part 1

For the next few days, we will explore the ancient story of the Bhagavad Gita. Within this ancient Indian text, lies a fundamental secret of life as a Human on three dimensional Earth. With this knowledge, you wield the power to rise above your body's emotions, and to transcend three dimensions. After we recall the story, we will explore what it means to us as Humans evolving into a higher plane of expression, while stuck in

three dimensional every day life.

Our story begins with two warring factions of cousins. One side represents the energies of fairness, contemplation and patience before action. The other side is paranoid, seeing imaginary threats everywhere, especially from their cousins. They thrive on discontent, they are disorganized and restless. They often act hastily, without thinking things through, and they hurt themselves in the long run.

The two warring factions of the same family have amassed vast armies and untold powerful magic far beyond what present day Humanity can be trusted with. For 13 years, the factions have been preparing for war against each other. One side prepared with meditation, while the other actively built a huge, terrifying, finely-tuned army of warrior demons, built to destroy whatever crossed its path.

As dawn broke on the day of the battle, the moment was surreal, ethereal, an instant stretched into eternity. Earth had never before witnessed the immensity of these two armies, facing each other, awaiting the signal for the war to officially begin. A comet of dust arose, as Arjuna and his charioteer Krishna rode thru the corridor between the vast armies, poised to annihilate each other.

The armies await the sound of the conch shell to signify that the epic battle has begun. The great warrior Arjuna, General of the army that prepared for war in meditation, stands upon his golden chariot between the armies. Slowly, he brings the conch shell to his lips quivering lips. As he draws in a breath, his knees grow weak. Arjuna stumbles off of the chariot, throws his weapons to the dusty ground, and falls to his knees in a plea to Krishna.

It may seem odd that a general would turn to a chauffeur for

guidance at the most critical moment of his life. In fact, the General Arjuna chose Krishna to be his driver because of the rumors going around. It is said that Krishna is actually the God Vishnu, incarnated in Human form. They say that Vishnu is here to bring about destruction and to usher in a new age of enlightenment on Earth. Sound familiar?

Arjuna remains prostrate before Krishna, unarmed, pleading for guidance, while the vast armies face each other, awaiting the signal to unleash unknown destruction.

Krishna, the human incarnation of the god Vishnu, looks down upon the prostrate General Arjuna and says, "What is this mad and shameful weakness? Stand up and fight!"

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Resisting Foreclosures

Katrina vanden Heuvel

The Nation -- In Georgia, the ease with which someone can lose a home is staggering.

A foreclosure-eviction can occur without judicial review in just 35 days, and at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, the state's 159 counties hold a sheriff's auction of foreclosed homes.

That translated to 1,500 homes for sale in Atlanta on September 1. Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition--including 125 ministers from throughout the south--were in town to try to stop the auction.

They appealed to both Citibank and Wells Fargo to withdraw homes from the sale. Citi pulled thirty of its forty properties and will restructure those mortgages. Wells Fargo is still considering its response. Jackson commended Citi for taking "courageous action" but also noted that there is a need for a "massive restructuring" to truly stem the tide of foreclosures.

"The systematic hemorrhaging of foreclosures is outdistancing by far the loan modifications," Jackson said in a recent interview. "We've given a massive blood transfusion to the banks, but it's not linked to stopping the hemorrhaging at the bottom. We're taking care of a head wound...but the aorta is gushing."

Indeed, as of June 30, 1.5 million homes had gone into foreclosure and 2.4 million are expected to foreclose by the end of the year. Thirteen million foreclosures are projected over the next five years. The crisis has also spread to prime loans-- they now represent 27 percent of foreclosed loans, "up from 17 percent during the comparable 2008 period," according to McClatchy Newspapers. Nationwide, 23 percent of homeowners are now "under water"--owing more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. Meanwhile, only about 10 percent of homeowners eligible for relief under the Obama administration's anti-foreclosure plan have received help.

"That leaves 90 percent to the bankers without an incentive to restructure loans rather than repossess homes," Jackson said. "Right now,

the government is going house by house by house by house--like dipping a spoon in the ocean. There's a structural abnormality...that will not work. It's like if you're going for the right to vote--going city by city by city by city...or do you have a federal restructuring of the right to vote? Period." Jackson is outraged that the banks--even subprime lenders, some of whom engaged in "redlining and targeting, steering and clustering"--received a bailout, and are now profiting, with "no linkage to use the bailout to modify loans."

"Banks are sending out press releases saying they are recovering, but they are being stimulated to recover," he said. "Meantime, we're still losing jobs, and houses, and student loans...and the same banks that are getting 0 percent interest on loans are unwilling to reduce the homeowner rate. They're getting 0 percent money and charging students 16 percent....They're taking a stimulus and getting a fee for free money." Rainbow PUSH has embarked on an ambitious and focused campaign--to restructure people's loans en masse--to stem the tide of foreclosures. It involves calling on the Federal Reserve Bank to institute an across-the-board interest rate reduction on all residential mortgages (Jackson proposes a 6 percent cap); Congress to give bankruptcy judges the power to modify mortgages (the House passed such legislation but it failed in the Senate); the Department of Justice to enforce fair lending and civil rights laws and prosecute those involved in predatory and discriminatory lending practices; and banks and the private sector to participate in the Obama administration's anti-foreclosure programs in order to modify 75 percent of troubled home mortgages.

The campaign plans foreclosure actions this month in Los Angeles, Antioch, CA, the Federal Reserve in San Francisco, and again in Atlanta. Meetings will be held between key staff of Rainbow PUSH and the Federal Reserve, FDIC, Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank. □

Borlaug, father of Green Revolution, dies at 95

by Andrew Beatty

WASHINGTON (AFP)

— Norman Borlaug, a Nobel Prize winning scientist whose work on disease-resistant wheat is credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives, has died at the age of 95.

The acclaimed agriculturalist, often called the father of the Green Revolution, died late on Saturday in Dallas, Texas, due to complications from cancer, according to Texas A&M University, where Borlaug served since 1984.

He was best known for his work developing disease-resistant “dwarf” wheat, which yielded two to three times as much as the normal crop. “Norman E. Borlaug saved more lives than any man in human history,” said Josette Sheeran, the head of the World Food Program, on Sunday.

“His total devotion to ending famine and hunger revolutionized food security for millions of people and for many nations.”

Borlaug began his career before World War II at the US forestry service, after earning an undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota. Like many from America’s Midwest, Borlaug traced his roots back to Europe’s Nordic region, which he referred to as “the land of my fathers.”

Born in March 1914, “his childhood days were spent on an Iowa farm, influenced by his Norwegian grandfather’s lessons on common sense,” Texas A&M University said. That common sense led him to focus on food, which he saw as both a fundamental element of human existence and a moral right.

“Civilization as it is known today could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply,” he said in his 1970 Nobel Lecture.

“Man can and must prevent the tragedy of famine in the future instead of merely trying with pious regret to salvage the human wreckage.”

In 1944 he began working with Mexican scientists to develop new wheat varieties, which were later introduced to India and Pakistan, helping



Nobel Prize winning scientist Norman Borlaug, seen here in 2007, has died at the age of 95. Borlaug played an important role in agriculture and his work is credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives.

(AFP/File/Mandel Ngan)

to feed what he described as the “population monster.”

According to Borlaug’s own figures, the new strain nearly doubled Indian and Pakistani wheat production between 1965 and 1970, a leap of more than 11 million tons.

The success, at a time when mass famines were widely predicted, spread his fame across the globe and his dwarf wheat throughout Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in 1970, when he pledged to serve with “an army of hunger fighters... for a lifetime term.”

In the United States he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the US Congressional Gold Medal, the country’s two top civilian honors. He was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India’s second highest honor and a slew of honorary universities degrees from around the world, from Japan to Bolivia. As biotechnology developed apace with the advent of genetic modification, Borlaug became an avid supporter.

“The public needs to be better informed about the importance of biotechnology in food production so it won’t be so critical,” he said in a 2002 interview with ActionBioscience.org.

His wife Margaret passed away in 2007. He was the father of two children. □



Pop singer Elton John kisses baby Lev during a news conference at an orphanage for HIV-positive children in the town of Makeyevka outside Donetsk, September 12, 2009.

(AP Photo/HO)

By GREGORY KATZ,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Look out, Madonna and Angelina Jolie — pop star Elton John has decided he wants to join the ranks of A-list celebrities with adopted children.

But it’s not clear if John, 62, will be able to adopt, and the Rocket Man star has not yet started formal proceedings, which are often long and complicated.

John and longtime partner David Furnish are interested in trying to adopt a Ukrainian toddler named Lev they met

Elton John wants to adopt Ukrainian toddler

during an orphanage tour there.

The singer told reporters in Ukraine on Saturday that Furnish has long wanted to adopt a child but that he was reluctant until he met Lev at an orphanage where many of the children’s parents have died from AIDS.

“David always wanted to adopt a child and I always said ‘no’ because I am 62 and I think because of the traveling I do and the life I have, maybe it wouldn’t be fair for the child,” John said.

“But having seen Lev today, I would love to adopt him. I don’t know how we do that but he has stolen my heart. And he has stolen David’s heart and it would be wonderful if we can have a home. I’ve changed my mind today.”

He acknowledged bureaucratic hurdles may make adoption of a Ukrainian child impossible, citing the lack of a formal adoption protocol between England and the Ukraine as a serious potential problem.

“I don’t know what the

procedure is to adopt a boy from the Ukraine. I don’t think I can because England doesn’t have a treaty with the Ukraine,” he said.

But he said the fact that Furnish, 46, is Canadian may provide an avenue for adoption from the Ukraine. Some countries also make it difficult for gay couples to adopt.

John and Furnish toured the orphanage — where John performed for the children — as part of his AIDS Foundation work. Ukraine has one of the fastest rising rates of HIV infection in Europe.

John said he was motivated in part by the sudden death last week of one of his closest friends, keyboardist Guy Babylon.

“It broke my heart because he was such a genius and so young and has two wonderful children,” John said. “What better opportunity to replace someone I lost than to replace him with someone I can give a future to.” □

Is there trouble in Oprah’s TV kingdom?

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Oprah Winfrey is opening her talk show’s 24th season with a flourish. One week of programs include a Chicago block party with the Black Eyed Peas, an exclusive Whitney Houston interview, her first Dr. Phil visit in seven years and a trip to New York. It’s hard to remember when it seemed more important.

Winfrey is still the queen of daytime television, but the aura of invincibility is gone. The average viewership for “The Oprah Winfrey Show” slipped under 7 million last season, down 7 percent from the year before, according to Nielsen Media Research. One week during the July rerun season, the show had its lowest ratings since its 1985 debut.

There are many possible explanations for the fade, including some over which Winfrey has no control. Ratings declines are common with so many choices and demands on time, particularly

during the day. It’s even rarer for programs that have been on the air as long as Winfrey’s to grow.

And it’s not just her. “Live with Regis and Kelly” had the same 7 percent decline last season. Shows with Jerry Springer, Maury Povich and Martha Stewart all had double-digit declines.

Yet Winfrey has also alienated some of her audience, particularly in more conservative parts of the country, said Janice Peck, author of the book “Age of Oprah” and a University of Colorado professor.

By endorsing Barack Obama and campaigning for him, she shucked her apolitical image. Winfrey’s book club selection of Eckhart Tolle’s New Age religion book “A New Earth” angered some conservative Christians — even though Winfrey’s producer said Winfrey was careful not to push Tolle’s views on viewers through the television show. Winfrey’s buoyant



FILE - In this June 4, 2009 file photo, Oprah Winfrey is shown during the Uncommon Height Gala honoring Winfrey in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, file)

encouragement of her audience, telling them that their possibilities are limitless, may no longer resonate in tough economic times, Peck said.

The professor said few of her college students talk about Winfrey. They seem more interested in Ellen DeGeneres or Tyra Banks. □

The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com.steakhouse



Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

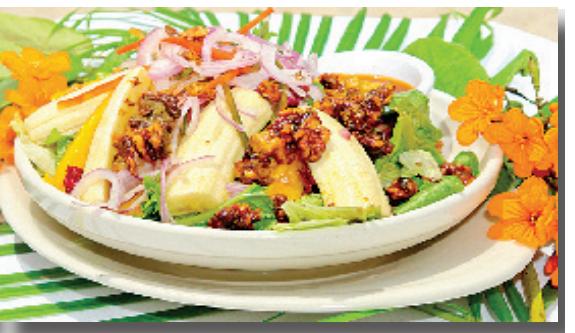
The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □





On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Monday, September 14, 2009

Sebelius: Swine flu shots may start early October

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first round of swine flu shots in the United States could begin sooner than expected, with some vaccine available as early as the first week of October, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Sunday.

Sebelius said she is confident the vaccine will be available early enough to beat the peak of the expected flu season this fall and that early doses are intended for health care workers and other high-priority groups.

"We're on track to have an ample supply rolling by the middle of October. But we may have some early vaccine as early as the first full week in October. We'll get the vaccine out the door as fast as it rolls off the production line," she told ABC's "This Week."

The possibility of early shots follows encouraging news from last week about the swine flu vaccine. Researchers have discovered that one dose instead of two could be enough for healthy adults, and protection could begin once vaccinated within 10 days instead of three weeks.

"That's great, which means



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius gestures during a briefing about the upcoming seasonal flu season, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at the National Press Club in Washington.

Associated Press

we'll have a lot more vaccine," she said. "We also have seen a robust immune response within 10 days, instead of three weeks as was feared." Sebelius said the vaccine doses will be distributed immediately to designated locations across the country once they are available. "Every state has a plan saying these are the sites to get the vaccine as quickly as possible into people's arms. That's where the distribution will

go," she said.

"So, the first week in October, we expect some of the vaccine to begin to roll, and by mid-October, to have the kind of supplies we were talking about.

But we may have some available earlier. And we'll get it out to states as fast as it comes off the production lines," Sebelius said.

One dose means tight supplies of H1N1 vaccine won't be stretched so badly. □

Obama says he's expecting 'a good health care bill'

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said he is confident Congress will pass "a good health care bill," as months of rancor over reforming the U.S. health care system seemed to be easing Sunday, with the White House playing down an immediate role for a government insurance option. At the same time, Obama was critical of Republican opponents who he said were trying to block an overhaul of the national health care system for political gain.

Continued on Next Page



President Barack Obama holds health insurance reform rally, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Probe into Ill. fundraiser's death looks at drugs

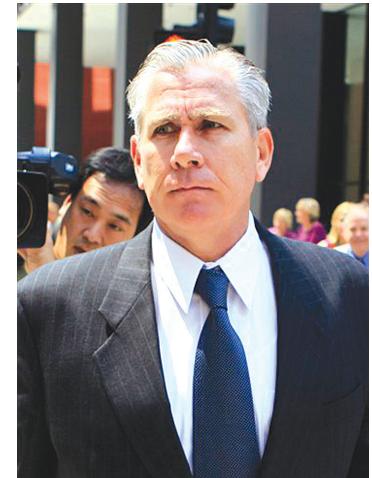
MIKE ROBINSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The investigation into the death of the former chief fundraiser for ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich intensified on Sunday as medical examiners completed an autopsy and detectives looked into whether drugs found in the trusted aide's vehicle might have factored into his death.

Dwight Welch, the mayor of suburban Country Club Hills where Kelly was found slumped over his vehicle's steering wheel in a lumber yard, said a number of drugs were found in the former fundraiser's black Cadillac Escalade but declined to say which drugs. He did say the investigation was being treated as a possible suicide.

Continued on Page B5



In this June 22, 2009 file photo, Christopher Kelly, the former chief fundraiser for ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, leaves the federal building in Chicago. Kelly, who was a key figure in the federal corruption case against ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, died Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, according to a Stroger Hospital spokesman.

Associated Press



German ISAF soldiers gather after returning back to their base in Feyzabad, east of Kunduz, Afghanistan, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009.

Associated Press

Dozens of Taliban killed after U.S. deaths

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — About 50 Taliban militants died in a battle in western Afghanistan after an insurgent ambush killed three U.S. troops and seven Afghan soldiers, an Afghan official said Sunday.

The fighting took place in a region controlled by militants that has been the site of huge battles in the past, some that have caused high numbers of civilian casualties. In Saturday's clash, a rocket fired by a militant struck a home and killed a woman and a teenage girl, Afghan police said.

Continued on Page B6



White House press secretary Robert Gibbs is interviewed on CNN's State of the Union on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

GOOD BILL

Continued from Page B1

"I believe that we will have enough votes to pass not just any health care bill, but a good health care bill that helps the American people, reduces costs, actually over the long-term controls our deficit. I'm confident that we've got that," Obama said in an interview broadcast Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes." "There are those in the Republican party who think the best thing to do is just to kill reform. That that will be good politics."

Obama has retaken the offensive on his key domestic policy issue, most notably with a speech last week to both houses of Congress. And

sought to turn down the heat over a government-run health insurance plan.

"The public option is only a means to that end and we should remain open to other ideas that accomplish our ultimate goal," he said.

Obama is trying to push opposing lawmakers away from positions — both left and right — that were threatening stalemate. That's what happened when Bill Clinton, the last Democratic president, tried to push through an overhaul in the 1990s.

Obama's spokesman, Robert Gibbs, drove home that point again Sunday.

The president "prefers the public option," Gibbs said.

"However, he said what's most important is choice and competition."

And Sen. Olympia Snowe, the Maine Republican who could be the party's only senator who votes with Democrats, believes choice and competition can be ensured without the public option.

"It's not on the table. And it won't be," she said Sunday. "We'll be using the co-op as an option at this point, as the means for injecting competition in the process," she said.

Snowe sits on a six-member panel — three from each party — of the Senate Finance Committee that is writing a version of the health care overhaul bill.

Instead of the government running a program that provides low-cost health insurance, Snowe and fellow negotiators are considering a not-for-profit cooperative system. Those backing the measure contend it would substantially lower health insurance premiums by cutting out private-industry profits and guarantee coverage to all who want it.

Such systems exist in some areas of America but their success has been spotty.

And Obama will have to be convinced that such a plan can succeed.

"I have no interest in having a bill get passed that fails. That doesn't work," Obama told CBS. "You know, I intend to be president for a while and once this bill passes, I own it."

Obama wants to make sure that any overhaul imposes strict measures to ban companies from refusing insurance to people with existing medical conditions, dropping coverage when policyholders become ill and imposing caps on what a person can claim for one illness or in his lifetime.

He told CBS he didn't want Americans to say in the future: "You know what? This hasn't reduced my costs. My premiums are still going up 25 percent, insurance companies are still jerking me around."

"I'm the one who's going to be held responsible," Obama said. "So I have every incentive to get this right."

The United States is the only major democracy without a national health insurance system, with some 47 million citizens lacking coverage. Many Americans depend on workplace-linked health

insurance partially subsidized by their employers, which they can lose if they lose their job.

Obama is trying to sweeten the legislative deal for Republicans by indicating he is open to their ideas.

In his Wednesday speech and again in the CBS interview, the president signaled he was open the idea of so-called tort reform. Under current practice, doctors and hospitals must pay huge amounts to insure themselves against malpractice lawsuits by patients seeking large court-ordered settlements for poor treatment.

Democrats, thanks to heavy backing from lawyers, have not supported Republican efforts to limit such payments. Doctors — and Republican politicians — say the current system drives up costs through unneeded medical procedures ordered by physicians who fear being sued.

"I would be willing to ... consider any ideas out there that would actually work in terms of reducing costs, improving the quality of patient care," Obama said in the Sunday interview, which was taped Friday.

While he said he did not back limits on court-ordered rewards for malpractice, he said "there are a range of ideas that are out there, offered by doctors' organizations like the AMA (American Medical Association), that I think we can explore."

Gibbs spoke on CNN's "State of the Union." Snowe appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation." □

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AFL-CIO president bids farewell as labor leader

SAM HANANEL

Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — John Sweeney, stepping down after 14 years at the helm of the AFL-CIO trade union confederation, urged union leaders Sunday to keep up the fight to reform health care and overhaul labor laws so workers can form unions more easily.

"We're on the cusp of the greatest advance in labor law reform in 70 years, but we're taking heavy fire from the corporate captains of deceit," Sweeney told about 1,000 union members at the federation's convention.

He said efforts to pass health care legislation have been met with "a firestorm of meanness, stoked by politicians playing on fear, racism, nativism and greed."

Health care and labor laws lie at the forefront of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organization's political agenda as it welcomes new leadership for the first time since 1995. Sweeney's longtime deputy, Richard Trumka, is expected to be named AFL-CIO president on Wednesday.

In his keynote address, Sweeney reflected on his legacy of building the AFL-CIO into a political powerhouse for workers' rights and social change. He noted the major role union activists played in electing President Barack Obama and a Democratic-controlled Congress.

But he sidestepped any mention of the steady decline in union membership under his tenure, as millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs disappeared and businesses grew more adept at fending off union organizers.

Trumka, the former head of the United Mine Workers, has pledged to make the AFL-CIO even more aggressive politically and spend more resources wooing younger workers.

While there is little drama at the convention this year — Trumka is running unopposed — labor leaders believe they have a historic chance to swell their ranks after decades of decline. The federation plans to ramp up efforts in Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it easier for workers to organize

unions.

The measure has long been atop labor's agenda, but leaders say there has never been a better chance to pass it. Business groups strongly oppose the bill and it has stalled this year without the support of some moderate Democrats.

In other action, the federation could make official its push for Obama to pass a second economic stimulus package. The AFL-CIO may also pass a resolution seeking a government-run option for health care reform. Some labor leaders, including Trumka, have criticized Democratic lawmakers for backing away from earlier plans for a public option. □



FILE - In this Sept. 7, 2009 file photo, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, left, and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney listen as President Barack Obama addresses union workers and their families at the AFL-CIO Labor Day picnic at Coney Island in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

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Election trouble brewing for Democrats in 2010



In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier is seen at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. DeSaulnier is seeking the Democratic nomination to the 10th Congressional seat in the Sept. 1 primary to replace Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif. Tauscher was appointed to a State Department position by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite sweeping Democratic successes in the past two national elections, increasing unemployment and President Barack Obama's slipping support could lead to double-digit losses for the party in next year's congressional races and may even threaten their control of the House of Representatives.

Fifty-four new Democrats were swept into the House in 2006 and 2008, helping the party claim a decisive majority as voters soured on a Republican president and embraced Obama's message of hope and change. Many of the new Democrats are in districts

Associated Press

carried by Republican Sen. John McCain in last year's presidential contest; others are in traditional swing districts that have proved tough for either party to hold.

From New Hampshire to Nevada, House Democrats also will be forced to defend votes on Obama's massive \$787 billion economic recovery package and on energy legislation viewed by many as a job killer in an already weak economy.

Add to that the absence of Obama from the top of the ticket, which could reduce turnout among blacks, liberals and young people, and the likelihood of a highly motivated Republican base confused by the president's

proposed health care plan and angry at what they consider reckless spending and high debt.

Taken together, it could be the most toxic environment for Democrats since 1994, when the party lost 34 House incumbents and 54 seats altogether. Democrats have a 256-178 edge in the House, with one vacancy. Republicans would have to pick up 40 seats to regain control.

"When you have big sweeps as Democrats did in 2006 and 2008, inevitably some weak candidates get elected. And when the environment gets even moderately challenging, a number of them are going to lose," said Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in California.

Since the mid-19th century, the party that controls the White House has lost seats in virtually every midterm election. The exceptions were in 1934, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt navigated the Great Depression, and in 2002, after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, strengthened George W. Bush's image as a leader.

With history as a guide, Democratic Rep. Chris Van Hollen, who heads the party's House campaign committee, said he has warned colleagues to be prepared for an exceptionally challenging environment going into 2010. But Van Hollen said voters will make their choices on the strength of the national

economy and will reward Democrats for working aggressively to improve it.

"We passed an economic recovery bill with zero help from Republican colleagues," he said. "I think voters will see that and will ask themselves, 'Who was there to get the economy moving again, and who was standing in the way?'"

Democrats have gotten off to a much faster start than Republicans in fundraising for 2010. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee had \$10.2 million in the bank at the end of July, with debts of \$5.3 million. The National Republican Congressional Committee had just \$4 million in cash and owed \$2.75 million.

The economy poses the biggest problem for Democrats, with job losses of 2.4 million nationwide since Obama took office. Despite recent signs the U.S. is pulling out of the recession, the unemployment rate in 15 states still was in double digits in July, led by Michigan at 15 percent.

Democrats must defend as many as 60 marginal seats next year, as opposed to about 40 for Republicans. Among those, about 27 Democratic and just 13 Republican seats are seen as especially ripe for a party switch.

Some involve incumbents stepping down to run for higher office.

For example, Democratic

Rep. Joe Sestak is mounting a primary challenge to Sen. Arlen Specter. Sestak's seat, until then safely Democratic, now becomes a top Republican target. The same goes for Louisiana Rep. Charlie Melancon, a Democrat in a Republican-leaning district who also is seeking a Senate seat.

But Republicans are on the losing side of that equation as well. Two Republicans in heavily Democratic districts — Reps. Mark Kirk of Illinois and Joe Gerlach of Pennsylvania — are vacating their seats to run for Senate and governor, respectively.

At least one Republican is considered extremely vulnerable: Joseph Cao of Louisiana, who defeated Democrat William Jefferson after the nine-term incumbent was indicted on corruption charges. The district, which includes most of New Orleans, is considered one of the most Democratic in the country. Beyond that, most of the closest races involve Democrats who rode the Obama tide in 2008. They include at least four in Ohio, a perennial presidential swing state that has been battered for years by a persistently weak economy. Two represent bellwether areas: Rep. Mary Jo Kilkroy, whose district covers most of Columbus and its suburbs, and Rep. Steve Driehaus, whose district includes much of Cincinnati and its suburbs.

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Country Club Hills mayor Dwight Welch, left, talks to the press while police chief Regina Evans listens as they discuss the investigation of the death of Christopher Kelly during a news conference at the Country Club Hills police department on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009, in Country Club Hills, Ill. Kelly, a former chief fundraiser for ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, died Saturday at a hospital in Chicago. Authorities are investigating the death as a suicide.

DEATH

Continued from Page B1

Welch said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Sunday morning that it was his understanding that Kelly had told an officer at the hospital that he had "taken on overdose of something." But on Sunday afternoon he backed off that statement and said he was not "confirming or denying" that Kelly had made such a statement to police. The Cook County Medical Examiner's performed an autopsy but said Sunday it couldn't determine the cause of death until toxicology tests are completed in 3-6 weeks. Kelly died Saturday morning at a Chicago hospital, and Welch said his city's police detectives were investigating the death as a suicide but giving the case the priority of a homicide.

An admitted high-stakes gambler who once haunted Las Vegas' card tables, Kelly was facing at least eight years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud charges in two separate cases, and he was scheduled to start serving his time on Friday.

Welch said detectives want to interview Clarissa Flores-Buhelos, 30, who he said was Kelly's girlfriend.

Flores-Buhelos told police she found Kelly Friday night slumped over the wheel of his Escalade at the lumber yard, Welch said. Kelly is believed to have rented storage space nearby.

The mayor said it appeared

Associated Press

Kelly called or text-messaged Flores-Buhelos and asked her to meet him at the lumberyard. He said she told police she pushed Kelly into the passenger seat and drove him to Oak Forest Hospital for treatment.

Kelly arrived at the hospital at 11:15 p.m., and was transferred six hours later to John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital in Chicago for further treatment.

He was pronounced dead Saturday at 10:46 a.m.

Flores-Buhelos hired a prominent Chicago defense attorney, Terry Gillespie, who did not immediately respond to a message left at his office seeking comment.

Detectives are looking to speak with a man who turned up at Oak Forest Hospital, identified himself as Michael Allen and asked to pick up the

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Escalade but was turned away by security, Welch said.

Kelly was part of the former governor's inner circle, and as chairman of Blagojevich's campaign fund, he presided over a political war chest of millions of dollars. But at the time of his death, Kelly had run up thousands of dollars in personal debts and was believed to be strapped for cash.

He was facing three years in prison for hiding \$1.3 million in income, including company money he used to pay gambling debts that he wrote off as business expenses. He was facing five additional years for taking part in an \$8.5 million fraud involving roofing work on United Air Lines and American Airlines hangars at O'Hare International Airport.

And still to come was a trial in a sweeping indictment that charged Blagojevich, Kelly and four other men with planning several fraudulent deals involving state government and millions of dollars in kickbacks.

The trial is set for June 3 and could have added years to Kelly's sentence.

Even while his problems were mounting, Kelly continued to wield heavy influence in the Blagojevich administration.

Early on, Blagojevich appointed him as the governor's liaison to the gambling industry. But he had to step down after it was found that he had business ties to a man who held shares in the planned Emerald Riverboat Gambling Casino. □



Police: Found body is likely missing Yale student

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Police on Sunday said they found what they believe is the body of a Yale University graduate student and bride-to-be hidden inside the wall of a university building where she was last seen five days before.

New Haven Assistant Police Chief Peter Reichard said officials are presuming the body was that of doctoral student Annie Le, who has been the focus of a massive police search since Tuesday.

"It hasn't been positively identified as of this time," Reichard told reporters Sunday night. "However, we are assuming it is her ... so we are treating it as a homicide."

State police found the body at around 5 p.m. Sunday in an area of the building that houses utility cables that run between floors. The building is in the Ivy League school's medical complex, about a mile from the main campus.

Reichard said police also recovered "a large amount" of physical evidence, but he would not discuss what that included.

Yale President Richard Levin offered support to Le's family and her fiance, Columbia University graduate student Jonathan Widawsky. The couple was to marry Sunday in Syosset, N.Y., on Long Island's north shore.

"The family and fiance and friends now must suffer the additional ordeal of waiting for the body to be positively identified," Levin said. "I met earlier this evening with Annie's family, with her fiance and his family and I conveyed to them all the deeply felt support of the entire university community."

Police on Sunday would not say if they have any suspects. They previously have said Widawsky is not a suspect and is assisting with the investigation.

Le, 24, was last seen Tuesday morning in the five-story building that housed the laboratory where she worked. □

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German ISAF soldiers look out of their jeep during a patrol in the area of Feyzabad, east of Kunduz, Afghanistan, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

TALIBAN KILLED

Continued from Page B1

The battle followed an insurgent ambush that killed three Americans and seven Afghan troops, said Afghan army spokesman Maj. Abdul Basir Ghori. The ambush involved two roadside bombs, gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, the U.S. military

said Sunday.

Fighting — which included NATO airstrikes — continued for six to eight hours after the ambush, U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Elizabeth Mathias said. She couldn't provide casualty figures and no other Afghan officials immediately confirmed the death toll.

"The combined ISAF and Afghan force was receiving significant small-arms, RPG and indirect fire throughout that time frame," she said, referring to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Saturday's violence came the same day Afghan officials said 50 other civilians, security forces and militants were killed in a spate of attacks around Afghanistan, including 20 noncombatants killed in two roadside bomb explosions. Violence has risen steadily across Afghanistan in the last three years, and militants now control wide swaths of the countryside. The U.S. and NATO have a record number of troops

in the country, and the top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, is likely to soon request thousands more. A record number of U.S. and NATO troops have died in Afghanistan already this year.

Also Sunday, an ISAF official provided more information about the rescue of a New York Times reporter from Taliban captors in Kunduz province earlier this month. Afghan journalists were angered that the British-Irish reporter was rescued but his Afghan translator died during the operation and his body was left behind. The official said the operation was launched because there were signs that the Taliban kidnappers planned to move the two men and hand them over to higher-level insurgents. British troops came under heavy fire as soon as their helicopters landed, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of the operation that had not been made public.

The rescuing troops brought body armor for Times reporter Stephen Farrell and for Afghan interpreter Sultan Munadi, the official said. When the British forces found Farrell, they immediately asked him where Munadi was, but Farrell said he had been killed. Because the militant gunfire was so heavy, the troops had to leave Munadi's body behind, the official said.

The British troops killed about a dozen militants during the operation, the official said.

"People need to understand that it's not like we walked in and tried to save this one guy and leave the other behind," the official said. "It was really heavy fire, and the risk wouldn't have been justified to recover a person they knew was already dead." □



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Israel: Differences with U.S. over peace talks

MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP)

— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking before a key meeting with the White House Mideast envoy, said Sunday that differences remain with the U.S. over resuming peacemaking with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu delivered the assessment before flying to Cairo for talks with Egypt's president, a main mediator in efforts to restart peace talks, and ahead of a meeting with George Mitchell, the U.S. envoy, later this week.

The Obama administration, with Mitchell as the point man, has been pressing Israel to declare a halt to construction in its West Bank settlements. Palestinians claim the West Bank as part of their future state and say they will not resume peace talks without a settlement freeze.

The meeting with Mitchell had been scheduled for Monday, but Netanyahu's office said the talks were postponed to Tuesday to allow the Israeli leader to attend the funeral of an air force pilot killed in a training accident. The pilot, Capt. Asaf Ramon, was the son of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who died in the Columbia shuttle disaster in 2003. Netanyahu, whose Likud Party is ideologically committed to expanding settlements and holding on to the West Bank, has been bargaining for a compromise that would allow some building to continue.

Navigating a thin line between the conflicting demands of his supporters at home on the one hand, and the U.S. and Palestinians on the other, Netanyahu and his government last week approved construction of several hundred new apartments in West Bank settlements and several hundred more in a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem.

At the same time, his office indicated openness to a limited freeze. Media reports say Israel might agree to halt construction for nine months, but would insist on completing the 2,500 to 3,000 housing units already begun.

Speaking at the beginning of Israel's weekly Cabinet session, Netanyahu held out hope for a deal with Mitchell. "There is still work to do," he said. "I hope that we will succeed in reducing the gaps. Maybe we will bridge them, so that we can move the process forward."

Mitchell delivered a similar message Sunday. "While we have not yet reached agreement on any outstanding issues, we are working hard to do so, and indeed the purpose of my visit here this week is to attempt to do so," he told Israel's ceremonial president, Shimon Peres. In Egypt, Netanyahu and Mubarak met over a traditional meal breaking the Muslim Ramadan fast. Mubarak asked Netanyahu to halt Israeli construction in the West Bank and in east Jerusalem, to lift restrictions on Palestinians and to quickly resume peace talks, Mubarak spokesman Suleiman Awad told the state-run MENA news agency.

A statement from Netanyahu's office said "all sides — Israel, the Palestinians, Arab nations and the international community — must do their part in advancing the peace process," an apparent reference to gestures the Arab world might offer in exchange for a settlement freeze. Netanyahu also discussed Egypt's attempts to mediate



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seen at a weekly cabinet meeting in his office, in Jerusalem, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. The Israeli leader is set to head to Cairo later Sunday, before meeting with U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell on Monday. Netanyahu says there are still differences with the U.S. on the conditions necessary to resume peacemaking with the Palestinians.

Associated Press

a prisoner swap between Israel and the Hamas militant group, the statement said.

Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, is demanding hundreds of Palestinian

prisoners in exchange for an Israeli soldier captured more than three years ago. □



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Iraqi shoe thrower to be released Monday

JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — The family of the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush is preparing a festive welcome for the TV reporter, who is to be released from prison Monday after nine months behind bars.

At his family's home in Baghdad on Sunday, relatives of Muntadhar al-Zeidi were already celebrating, waving Iraqi flags and hanging balloons and posters of the reporter on the walls.

Al-Zeidi, a little-known reporter for a small Iraqi TV station, became an icon for many in the Arab world in a single moment last December. As Bush and Iraq's prime minister addressed a news conference, the reporter jumped from his seat and hurled his shoes at the American president.

Bush was unhurt but forced to duck. Al-Zeidi shouted at him in Arabic, "This is your farewell kiss, you dog! This is from the widows, the orphans and those who

were killed in Iraq."

Many throughout the Middle East felt the protest reflected their own frustration and bitterness over the war in Iraq and the U.S. occupation. His act was widely celebrated and even inspired Internet games and T-shirts and led some to try to offer their daughters to him in marriage.

The 30-year-old al-Zeidi's family says he might use his newfound celebrity status to promote humanitarian causes such as the rights of orphans and women.

His employer, Al-Baghdadiya TV, expects he will return to work as a television reporter for the station, though some have questioned how he would be able to work again as a journalist in Iraq.

His actions deeply embarrassed Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and many officials in his government would likely to blacklist the reporter.

In March, al-Zeidi was convicted of assault. His three-year prison sentence was reduced to one because he had no prior record and

now he is to be released three months early for good behavior.

"God forbid if he is not released on time," his brother Dargham said on Sunday.

The family hung posters showing al-Zeidi's face in front of an Iraqi flag and the words: "Release the one who regained Iraqis' dignity."

The family is expected to meet him at the gates of a prison in central Baghdad on Monday. Parties and music are planned at his family's home later in the day.

His family is worried about his safety and will try to keep celebrations small because of security concerns, his brother Dargham said.

In 2007, al-Zeidi, a Shiite, was kidnapped by gunmen while on an assignment in a Sunni district of north Baghdad. He was freed unharmed three days later after Iraqi television stations broadcast appeals for his release.

Then in January 2008, he was arrested by American soldiers who searched his



A relative of Iraqi journalist Muntadhar al-Zeidi decorates a poster bearing his photograph in preparation for his release from jail for throwing his shoes at then U.S. President George W. Bush in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. Al-Zeidi, is to be released Monday after nine months in prison. The poster in Arabic reads, "Release the one who regained Iraqis' dignity."

Associated Press

apartment building and released him the next day with an apology.

Those experiences helped

mold his resentment of the U.S. military's presence in Iraq, according to his family. □

Aruba TODAY

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54 U.S.-bound migrants detained at Costa Rican coast

MARIANELA JIMENEZ
Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Costa Rican authorities detained 54 U.S.-bound migrants from Africa and Nepal after their boat arrived on the Central American country's coast, officials said Sunday.

Authorities were treating some of the migrants for dehydration after several days at sea and took into custody three suspected Colombian smugglers who were traveling with them, said Sergio Lopez, a spokesman for Costa Rica's security ministry.

Officials originally said all 54 migrants were from Africa. But after interviewing them, authorities reported 15 were from Nepal and 39 from

Africa. One migrant asked a Costa Rican policeman upon arrival: "How close is this country to the United States?" according to the newspaper Al Dia.

The security ministry released a statement quoting one migrant as saying he left Nepal for India, where he stayed a month, before heading to South Africa. From there he caught the boat promising to take him to the United States.

Migration Director Mario Zamora said the seven women and 47 men would be taken to a detention center in San Jose to join 41 other migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Guinea detained in June and July on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast.



Undocumented African migrants listen to instructions from a Costa Rican immigration official upon their arrival at a detention center in San Jose, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. Around 54 African migrants who were heading for the United States, were detained when their boat arrived on Costa Rica's coast Saturday.

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Zamora said the arrival of just a problem for Costa Rica, but has also affected Colombia, Panama and Nicaragua. □



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****U.S. OPEN****Best shot of his life moves Federer to final****EDDIE PELLS****AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Federer punctuated his latest U.S. Open victory Sunday with a shot he described, quite simply, the greatest of his life: a between-the-legs, back-to-the-net, crosscourt winner from the baseline.

A point later, with the crowd in hysterics and opponent Novak Djokovic still in shock, the world's top-ranked player closed out the victory, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5, to move one win from his sixth straight U.S. Open title.

Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina earlier handed Rafael Nadal his worst loss in a major tournament, beating the Spaniard 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 to reach his first Grand Slam final and a meeting with Federer, who made his 17th in the last 18.

Serbia's Djokovic fought for more than 2 1/2 hours on a day that grew increasingly windy at Arthur Ashe Stadium, hanging with Federer and even grabbing two break points late in the third set to briefly see a glimmer of hope.

Continued on Page B12

Roger Federer, of Switzerland, hits a return through his legs to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during their semifinals match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

FILE - In this file photo taken Wednesday, July 9, 2003, former Wimbledon and U.S. Open tennis champion Jack Kramer holds a pair of his signature Wilson rackets during the presentation of the Tennis Channel in Los Angeles. Kramer, a tennis champion in the 1940s and '50s and a promoter of the sport for more than 60 years, died Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009. He was 88.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods holds the BMW Championship trophy after winning the golf tournament in Lemont, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009. Woods won with a 19-under 265.

*Associated Press***DOUG FERGUSON****AP Golf Writer**

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) — Tiger Woods won the BMW Championship for his sixth victory of the year Sunday, assuring himself the No. 1 ranking going into the final tournament of the FedEx Cup.

One day after his course-record 62 gave him a seven-shot lead, Woods made sure no one else had a chance in the final round.

He closed with a 3-under 68 for an eight-shot victory

BMW Championship**Tiger coasts to a runaway victory**

over Jim Furyk and Marc Leishman.

Woods won for the fifth time at Cog Hill, and it was his 10th career victory by at least eight shots.

"It felt like we had a tournament within a tournament," Furyk said. "Tiger was seven ahead. He was kind of running away. It was kind of a tournament for second place."

That other tournament wound up being quite a show.

As Woods cruised around Cog Hill in his familiar red shirt, a dozen players behind him were scrambling for positions into the FedEx Cup finale at East Lake in two weeks.

Furyk's runner-up finish moved him up 15 spots to No. 3, meaning he can win the FedEx Cup with a victory at the Tour Championship. Leishman, who only qualified for Cog Hill by making an eagle on his last hole a week ago outside Boston, earned his first trip to the Tour Championship and will have an outside shot at the \$10 million.

Most compelling, however, was the battle for the 30th and final spot.

The heartbreaker belonged to Brandt Snedeker, playing in the final group with Woods. Walking up the 18th hole, he learned he only needed a bogey to finish in the top 30. He missed his 12-foot par putt, then watched in shock as his 3-footer for bogey caught the left lip of the cup. Snedeker was so stunned that he missed the next two putts and took triple bogey.

"I can't believe I did this," Snedeker said. "I just made a mess of it."

That allowed John Senden to capture the 30th spot by less than a half-point over Ian Poulter, two players who were hardly clutch down the stretch. Senden had a 90-yard wedge to the green at the 15th and chunked it so badly that it traveled only 50 yards. Two holes later, he nearly hit a bunker shot over the green and into the water to make double bogey.

Senden finished with 1,532.41 points. Poulter, who hit his approach into the water on the 18th, wound up with 1,531.95 points.

Far from easier to compute was Woods winning.

He finished at 19-under 265 for his 71st career victory, leaving two short of Jack Nicklaus for second on the PGA Tour's career list. Woods also tied Sam Snead with his sixth season of at least six victories.

Woods won for the first time since his aura was slightly tarnished at the PGA Championship, where he lost a lead in the final round for the first time since he was a 20-year-old rookie.

Y.E. Yang rallied from two shots behind to beat him at Hazeltine, ending Woods' streak of never losing a major with at least a share of the lead.

No way he was about to lose this one — not at Cog Hill, and not the way he was hitting shots and making putts. □

Tennis great Jack Kramer dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jack Kramer, a tennis champion in the 1940s and '50s and a promoter of the sport for more than 60 years, has died at his home in Los Angeles. He was 88. Bob Kramer says his father died Saturday night of a soft tissue cancer that was diagnosed in July.

Kramer won the Wimbledon men's singles title in 1947 and the men's U.S. Championships, the forerunner of the U.S. Open, in 1946 and '47. He was the No. 1 player in the world for much of the late 1940s. Kramer was among the founders of the Association of Tennis Professionals. Since the 1970s, he and his family have run a pro tennis tournament in Los Angeles. □

Sharp Brees extends Lions' NFL losing streak

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees looked even better than last year, which was bad news for a Detroit Lions team trying to win for the first time since 2007.

Brees tied a Saints record with six touchdown passes and threw for 358 yards in a 45-27 victory Sunday that extended the Lions' regular-season losing streak to 18.

Two of Brees' touchdown passes went to Jeremy Shockey, who hadn't scored since being traded from the New York Giants to New Orleans last season.

Brees connected with Marques Colston for 9 yards, Robert Meachem for 39, Shockey for 1 and 15, Devery Henderson for 58 and Heath Evans for 13.

Matthew Stafford's first start had its ups and downs. The 2009 top overall draft choice was 16 of 37 for 205 yards

with three interceptions. He led two touchdown drives, capping one with his first NFL score on a short keeper. Lions safety Louis Delmas also returned a fumble for a 65-yard touchdown.

Detroit is still eight losses off the NFL record of 26 straight defeats by Tampa Bay in 1976-77.

Vikings 34, Browns 20

At Cleveland, ageless quarterback Brett Favre threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to rookie Percy Harvin in his debut with the Vikings, and Adrian Peterson scored three touchdowns.

Making his 270th consecutive start after a will-he-or-won't-he flirtation that dominated NFL headlines this summer, the 39-year-old Favre showed he can still fire the football with authority — and hasn't lost his boyish love for the game.

After hooking up with Harvin,

Favre sprinted into the end zone and tackled the young wide receiver.

Peterson scored on a pair of 1-yard plunges and capped his day with an electrifying 64-yarder.

Peterson, held to 25 yards in the first half, finished with 180 on 25 carries.

Favre was 14 of 21 for 110 yards and appeared to be fully recovered from offseason surgery to repair a torn biceps tendon.

Broncos 12, Bengals 7

At Cincinnati, Brandon Stokley caught a tipped pass and outran Cincinnati's shocked defenders for an 87-yard touchdown with 11 seconds left.

After Cedric Benson's 1-yard run put Cincinnati ahead 7-6 with 38 seconds left, Kyle Orton — in line to shoulder the blame for a Denver loss — threw a desperate pass into a crowd at the sideline, hoping



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees hands the ball to running back Mike Bell, right, during the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Brandon Marshall would somehow come down with it. Marshall never got close. Cornerback Leon Hall batted the ball in the air, and the carom went right into the arms of Stokley, who was behind the defense and had a clear path to the end zone. He ran sideways for a few steps to eat up time before finally stepping into the end zone. □

Jeter becomes third fastest woman ever in 100 meters

DEMETRIS NELLAS,
Associated Press Writer

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — It would take something special to upstage Usain Bolt at the World Athletics Special and Carmelita Jeter provided it.

The 29-year-old American sprinter ran the fastest women's 100 meters in 11 years, winning in 10.67 seconds and blowing away world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser. It was easily the best performance in an event marked by rather pedestrian efforts from athletes tired after a long season.

"When I got into the race and the gun went off I didn't think, I just ran to the line," Jeter said. "Everything felt slow, and when my coach says that it feels slow it's actually fast." Her coach, John Smith, said after the race that he was "still in shock" after seeing his athlete become the third fastest woman of all time. Only world-record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner and Marion Jones have had faster times. Griffith-Joyner's record from

1988 is 10.49, while Jones clocked 10.65 from 1998.

Jeter trailed Fraser at the start but flew past her for a small measure of revenge after losing to the Jamaican at last month's worlds in Berlin.

Jeter was quick to credit Smith with her success, saying that hooking up with the coach in November last year was "the best decision I ever made."

However, it hasn't been a totally smooth transition. Smith, a veteran coach whose many charges include former 100 greats Maurice Greene, Ato Boldon and Torri Edwards, overhauled Jeter's training regime so drastically that she initially wasn't sure it would work.

"In the beginning, I felt frustrated," Jeter said. "He changed everything."

Smith said she expects Jeter to keep improving and become the dominant women's sprinter in future championships.

"She had the potential, like Bolt did for the men, to take the 100 to another level, to regular (performances) in the



Carmelita Jeter from the U.S.A. reacts after her win in the Women's 100 meters during an IAAF World Athletics Final at Thessaloniki's Kaftanzoglio stadium, Greece, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

10.60s, possibly the 10.50s," Smith said. "But I would really like to see her run the 200."

Griffith-Joyner's 21-year-old record has long been considered impregnable, and Jeter wasn't about to start thinking about breaking it.

"Chasing certain times will only get you hurt," she said. "Right now, my objective is to return home healthy." □

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**U.S. OPEN****Continued from Page B1**

Some things, though, there are no answers for, and the winner Federer hit to set up match point was the perfect example. It's the kind of shot every tennis player has tried, and one the world No. 1 actually practices.

"A lot, actually," he said. "But they never work. That's why, I guess, it was the greatest shot I ever hit in my life." Ahead 5-4 and 30-0 in the third set, Federer sprinted to the net to return a Djokovic drop shot, then Djokovic finessed a lob over Federer's

Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, celebrates after defeating Rafael Nadal, of Spain, in three sets in their semifinals match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

head that bounced barely inside the baseline.

Federer had nothing to lose, of course, so he ran back and hit the athletic shot, a ball that lots of players, especially at the highest levels, can get back. But few can do what Federer did with his — hit a blazing winner that barely clears the net. Federer jumped and shouted. Djokovic could only stand there and smile. He reached in his pocket to find the ball he'd serve to bring the match to a merciful end — for him, at least.

"You just say, 'Well done,'" Djokovic said. "What can you do?"

This was exactly the kind of memory the U.S. Open needed after a weekend filled with rain delays and controversy.

"I don't want to mention the word luck, but I didn't have it today," Djokovic said. "That's why I'm a little bit disappointed."

It was, oddly enough, also two points before match point

Saturday night when Serena Williams got called for a foot fault on her second serve, then unleashed a profanity-laced tirade at the line judge that cost her a point penalty, which ended the match.

On Sunday, while the Federer match was going on, the U.S. Open handed Williams a \$10,000 fine for that ugly scene. Had Federer not made

his remarkable shot, the point that would have defined the match came at 5-5 in the second set. Djokovic was at the net and somehow managed to get five straight reflex volleys back to Federer, who was standing at the service line.

Djokovic's final volley was a floater and he stuck his racket between his legs, turned around and stuck out his rear — the tennis player's version of begging for mercy.

Everyone got a good laugh, but the mark Federer is leaving on this sport is very serious:

—He's looking for his 41st straight win at Flushing Meadows.

—He's in his 21st Grand Slam final, a record.

—He's reached 22 consecutive Grand Slam semifinals, more than twice as many as any other man.

—He's trying to extend his own record with a 16th Grand Slam title, but first since his twins were born in July.

"Right now, I'm pretty relaxed," Federer said. "We'll see how it goes when the sun comes up. I'd like to keep this going. It'd be great to get my first Grand Slam as a dad."

Earlier, del Potro put on a show that was every bit as efficient as Federer's was spectacular, taking apart Nadal with a flurry of big serves and precise forehands.

Nadal finally acknowledged his strained abdominals were bothering him throughout this tournament, but didn't want that to take away from del Potro's fine effort.

"I'm going to repeat: He played much better than me, and for that reason he beat me," Nadal said.

The sixth-seeded Argentine — the first from that country to make a U.S. Open final since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 — kept Nadal pinned behind the baseline with a deep, flat forehand and a powerful first serve

He has lost all six previous encounters against Federer and hadn't won a set until this year in the French Open semifinals. But, del Potro claims he is seeing the ball very well this week.

"Maybe my green eyes. I don't know," he said. "It's very tough playing against Rafa or Roger. But today I play unbelievable, and that was the key."

On this day, though — and during that one magic moment, especially — it was Federer who had a stranglehold on "unbelievable." □

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Sismo de magnitud 6,2 remece centro de Venezuela

CARACAS (Reuters) - Un fuerte sismo de magnitud 6,2 grados se sintió en Venezuela cerca de las 2006 GMT el sábado, sin que hasta el momento se reportaran víctimas o graves daños materiales, reportó el director de Protección Civil, Luis Díaz Curbelo.

Autoridades venezolanas rectificaron sobre la magnitud del movimiento telúrico, pese a que el Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos (USGS, por su sigla en inglés) informó en principio una magnitud de 7,0.

El epicentro fue ubicado a 28 kilómetros al noreste de Morón, en el estado Carabobo, centro occidente del país, informó Francisco Garcés, presidente de la Fundación de Investigaciones Sismológicas, FUNVISIS.

Garcés también informó que hasta los momentos se han producido cinco réplicas del movimiento telúrico. "Ya hemos tenido cinco réplicas en este caso de 4,0, 3,6, 2,8, 4,0 y 3,4 (grados). Esto es algo absolutamente normal", dijo.

La refinería de crudo El Palito, una de las

principales de Venezuela y la petroquímica estatal, PEQUIVEN, se encuentran cercanas al epicentro del temblor. El sismo también fue sentido en el petrolero estado Zulia, en el occidente de la nación.

Fuentes de la estatal Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) no reportaron daños que impactaran en la producción de refinados o crudos. "No hay reportes de daños a nivel nacional", dijeron las fuentes a Reuters.

El Ministro de Industrias Intermedias, Ciencia y Tecnología, Jesse Chacón, llamó a la calma. "Queremos hacerle a los venezolanos un llamado a la tranquilidad, que los organismos de seguridad del Estado han estado levantando nuevamente los servicios, el servicio eléctrico y el servicio de telecomunicación en donde pudo haber fallas de congestión, vuelve a la normalidad", dijo Chacón.

El ministro de Interior Tareck Al Aissami dio un informe de la situación en el país sudamericano. "Hasta este momento, por fortuna, no hemos

recibido ningún tipo de daños materiales de este sismo, ni mucho menos de pérdidas de vidas. Aquí en el área metropolitana también se registraron fuertes lluvias que colapsaron las principales vías de comunicación", informó Al Aissami.

DAÑOS MENORES

Hipólito Izquierdo, presidente de la Corporación Eléctrica Nacional (CORPOELEC) informó que se había retomado la regularidad en el servicio de energía a nivel nacional.

"El servicio eléctrico está normal, en todo el territorio nacional", dijo Izquierdo. En el estado Falcón, al occidente del país, se reportaron grietas en casas y edificios.

Luis Díaz Curbello, presidente de protección civil dijo que la zona fue una de las más afectadas por el sismo.

En varios puntos de Caracas, la capital, se vio a gente asustada en la calle, mientras las líneas telefónicas se mantuvieron colapsadas, el servicio eléctrico presentaba interrupciones y se reportaron inundaciones en vías de comunicación. □



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